

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10 OIC-02 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SIL-01 JUSE-00 STRE-00 /175 W
-----001266 081805Z /45

R 081728Z AUG 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3033

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 12178

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR MIKE SMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: TEXTILES: NEXT TEXTILES COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: (A) TAIPEI 04984, (B) GENEVA 11053, (C) GENEVA 11203

1. IN PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH DG LONG AND DEP DG PATTERSON AUGUST 7, U.S. TSB REP HAD IN-DEPTH EXCHANGE VIEWS ON SCHEDULING NEXT TEXTILE COMMITTEE MEETING. LONG IS FIRMLY OF OPINION THAT LATE OCTOBER MEETING OF TC IS "UNAVOIDABLE." LONG NOTED THAT, WHILE U.S. REP'S PROPOSAL AT INFORMAL TSB SESSION JULY 17 (PARA 2, REF B) AND SUBSEQUENT SUGGESTION TSB DEFERRAL OF CONSIDERATION EC'S "WORKING DOCUMENT" APPROACH UNTIL SEPT. 18 TSB SESSION (PARA 5, REF C) HAD EFFECTIVELY RELIEVED PRESSURE FOR LATE JULY EARLY AUGUST TC, PRESSURE WOULD REAPPEAR IMMEDIATELY SHOULD EC FAIL NOTIFY FORMALLY ANY AGREEMENTS
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BEFORE SEPT. 18 TSB SESSION.

2. LONG SAID SCHEDULING TC ANYTIME IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER WOULD OBVIOUSLY CONFLICT WITH MTN ACTIVITIES IN THEIR MOST CRITICAL STAGE AND, SHOULD SUCH A MEETING TAKE PLACE, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE KEEP QUESTION TEXTILE TARIFFS FROM ARISING, A QUESTION WHICH,

IN HIS VIEW, COULD POSE, AT THAT POINT IN TIME, A THREAT TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION MTN.

3. U.S. REP TOLD LONG AND PATTERSON THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS THAT EC WOULD NOT FORMALLY NOTIFY BILATERALS UNTIL LATE OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER AND THAT, IN OUR VIEW, IT WAS ENTIRELY LIKELY THAT NONE WOULD BE NOTIFIED BEFORE A LATE OCTOBER TC. U.S. REP THEN ASKED LONG WHAT HE THOUGHT MIGHT HAPPEN IN TC IF EC HAD NOT NOTIFIED ANY AGREEMENTS BEFORE SESSION. HE REPLIED THAT "ALL HELL WILL BREAK LOOSE" SINCE THERE WOULD BE NO WAY LDC EXPORTERS COULD BE DETERRED OR PREVENTED FROM RAISING ISSUES OF BOTH SUBSTANCE AND PRINCIPLE. U.S. REP FULLY SHARES LONG'S ASSESSMENT; CERTAINLY THE LDC'S WOULD NOT "PRESS FOR" A NON-SUBSTANTIVE MEETING -- IF THEY PRESS THEY OBVIOUSLY INTEND TO ATTACK THE SUBSTANCE AND PRINCIPLES PROBLEMS OVER WHICH THEY ARE CONCERNED.

4. ONE OTHER PROBLEM WHICH SHOULD BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR IS THE TSB MEMBERSHIP FOR 1979. AT A MINIMUM, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE A TC CONSENSUS ON EXTENDING THE PRESENT MEMBERSHIP UNTIL A DEFINITIVE SELECTION CAN BE MADE IN JANUARY OR LATER IN 1979. WHILE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT AN OCTOBER TC COULD REACH AGREEMENT ON 1979 TSB MAKE-UP, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A CONSENSUS ON EXTENSION OF PRESENT CONFIDENTIAL

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MEMBERSHIP UNTIL AN EARLY TC MEETING IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY 1979.

5. IN SUMMARY, AS THINGS NOW STAND, IT APPEARS WE FACE AN OCTOBER TC WHERE THE TRILATERAL DELEGATION'S AGREEMENT TO PERMIT "LDC EXPORTERS TO LET OFF SOME STEAM, BUT NOT TOO MUCH" (PARA 5, REF A) BEARS LITTLE RELATIONSHIP TO REALITY; ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT WE DO NOT CONTROL THE VALVE.

6. HOW TO GET CONTROL OF THE VALVE? ACCEPTING AN OCTOBER TC AS INEVITABLE, U.S. REP WOULD PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING STRATEGY: (A) THAT WE AND ALL OTHER MFA PARTICIPANTS, AS APPROPRIATE, ENDEAVOR TO CONVINCE EC THAT FAILURE TO NOTIFY FORMALLY THEIR BILATERALS TO TSB BEFORE REPEAT BEFORE THE LATE OCTOBER TC IS LIKELY PRODUCE MORE STEAM THAN MOST PARTICIPANTS AND, ESPECIALLY, THE EC CAN TOLERATE; (B) IF EC CAN NOTIFY FORMALLY JUST BEFORE TC MEETING THOSE BILATERALS WHICH ARE REPEAT ARE COMPLETED, THEN POSITION COULD BE TAKEN IN TC (AND, WE BELIEVE, CARRIED) THAT SINCE EC BILATERALS HAD "VERY RECENTLY" BEEN NOTIFIED, TSB'S MANDATE TO REVIEW SUCH AGREEMENTS

SHOULD, OF COURSE, BE PURSUED AND THAT ANY DISCUSSION IN TC OF THESE BILATERALS UNDER REVIEW IN TSB WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE PRIOR TO CONCLUSION TSB REVIEW; AGREEMENT ON THIS COURSE WOULD, WE BELIEVE, DEFUSE MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE DANGEROUS ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE AND PRINCIPLE WHICH COULD ARISE; (C) THEN TC SHOULD TRY AND REACH CONSENSUS ON EXTENDING PRESENT TSB UNTIL SUCH TIME AS TC COULD MEET "EARLY NEXT YEAR" TO MAKE DEFINITIVE SELECTIONS FOR 1979.

7. U.S. REP RECOGNIZES THAT MOVING EC FORWARD ON SUBMISSION NOTIFICATIONS MAY BE DIFFICULT, BUT IT DOES APPEAR THAT THIS MAY BE ONLY WAY AVOID A POTENTIALLY

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 12178

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR MIKE SMITH

DISRUPTIVE OCTOBER TC.

8. WASHINGTON COMMENT AND GUIDANCE PLEASE. SORENSON

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